

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WISCONSIN BAY AREA COUNTIES

October 2001



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Decline in Bay Area Counties For the Month of September

The unemployment rates in the Wisconsin Bay Area for the month of September were unaffected by the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11 as much of the data for the month had already been collected. The Bay Area's economy will most likely see the impact of the tragedy beginning with the release of October data in late November. The primary impact will be the ripple effect the attack has had on the national economy as companies in the region have orders cut in response to slower sales. The manufacturing sector will continue to have a hard time as this sector had been most affected during the national economic slow down preceding the attack. While unemployment in the region has been lower than the national average for several years and remains that way, the slow down has had an impact in the area. Nationally, manufacturing had been the industry sector most affected by the slowing economy and nearly 28 percent of the employment in the Wisconsin Bay Area is in manufacturing, this compares to just over 13 percent nationally.

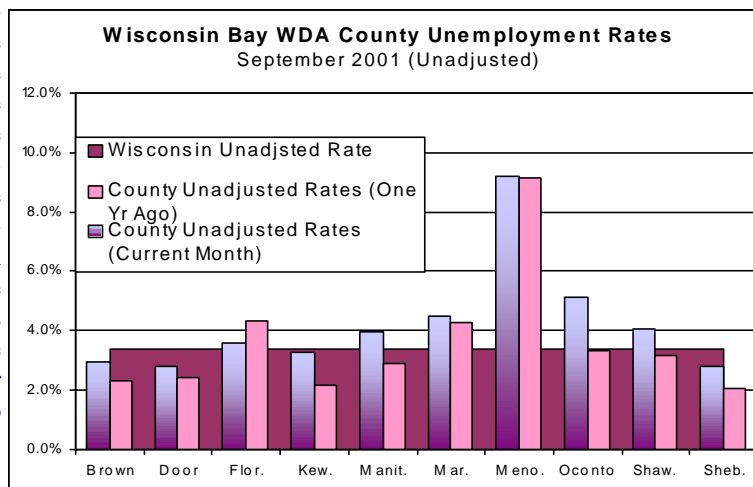
Between August and September the unadjusted rate decreased in all of the area's ten counties. The decline follows the same seasonal pattern experienced last month where the all the counties also experienced a month to month decline in the rate. The month to month declines mask the changes in the economy which is better viewed looking at year to year changes.

In the Bay Area, the only county with an unemployment rate below one year ago was Florence. The remaining counties ranged from 0.2 to 1.8 of a percentage above one year ago.

The rate continues to be affected by seasonal declines in both the civilian labor force and total employment. The number of workers in the area's labor force declined 5,600 from August. The size of the decline is not unusual for the time period. The decline in labor force occurs as workers are let go as the prime tourist season normally ends around Labor Day in the Bay Area. Many of these workers leave the workforce to go back to school or due to personal choice are no longer available for work.

Employment levels also declined in September. The number of workers that reported they were employed was 337,700. This was down 1,800 from August. Both the decline in the labor force and employment are a result of seasonal patterns in the Bay Area. Over the year data, which basically places the economy in the same place in the seasonal cycle shows improvement in absolute numbers, but is coupled with an increasing percentage of unemployment.

The number of workers employed rose 12,500 from last year, an increase of 3.7 percent. This was less than the increase in the number of workers available for work. The labor force during the same time period increased by 4.7 percent or 15,600 workers. With labor force size increasing faster than the number finding employment, the unemployment rate over the last year increased from 2.6 percent to 3.4 percent for the region this year. The only county in the Bay Area that did not have an increase in total employment over the last twelve months was Florence County. Employment remained unchanged there at 1,700.



Like total employment, which increased in nine of the ten counties over the year, nonfarm wage and salary employment (NFWS) increased in only nine counties. Shawano County had a decline of 200 over the year. The decline in Shawano was primarily in the service producing industries with the largest decrease occurring in the retail trade industry. Overall, NFWS was up 6,600 from last year in the Bay Area compared to 1,100 for the State of Wisconsin.

The small increase in NFWS statewide was due to a large decline in the manufacturing sector, which was down by 27,100 over the year. Manufacturing employment in the Bay Area was down 100 from last year. Durable Goods manufacturing, Federal and State Government were the only industries in the Bay Area that experienced employment declines over the year. Five of the Bay Area's ten counties had declines in manufacturing employment. They were Door, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, and Sheboygan Counties. Three counties in the region had over the year increases in

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manufacturing, they were Brown, Florence and Kewaunee.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined in both of the metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) in the Wisconsin Bay Area. The rate in the Green Bay MSA declined 0.4 of a percentage point to 3.4 percent, while the rate in the Sheboygan MSA was down 0.3 of a percentage point to 3.1 percent. Both

areas had unemployment rates above one year ago levels when they were at 2.6 and 2.2 percent respectively. The rate for the U. S. remained at 4.9 percent in September, while the rate in Wisconsin was down 0.3 of a percentage point to 4.0 percent.

*For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>

Wisconsin Bay Workforce Development Area												
September 2001	Brown	Door	Flornc.	Kewan.	Mantwc.	Marntt.	Menom	Oconto	Shawn.	Sheboy.	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	143,300	17,100	1,700	11,300	46,800	22,000	2,400	17,400	20,600	67,000	349,600	3,038,900
Employed	139,000	16,600	1,600	10,900	45,000	21,000	2,200	16,500	19,700	65,100	337,700	2,935,900
Unemployed	4,300	500	100	400	1,900	1,000	200	900	800	1,900	11,900	103,000
Unemployment rate(%)	3.0%	2.8%	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%	4.5%	9.2%	5.1%	4.1%	2.8%	3.4%	3.4%
Total, all industries**	152,200	14,800	1,200	7,100	39,800	20,600	2,200	10,500	12,700	66,900	327,800	2,857,000
Construction & Mining	9,500	1,100	100	600	2,100	700	0	800	600	3,600	19,100	137,700
Manufacturing	30,500	2,500	300	2,200	14,500	7,000	0	3,500	2,700	27,300	90,500	591,300
Transportation & Public Util.	10,900	300	0	500	2,000	900	100	400	600	2,100	17,800	137,900
Wholesale Trade	8,600	200	0	100	1,300	700	0	100	500	2,000	13,600	137,500
Retail Trade	25,500	3,500	300	1,100	6,000	3,400	100	1,900	2,700	9,200	53,700	502,200
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,700	800	0	300	900	500	0	200	400	2,000	15,800	152,500
Services	39,800	4,600	100	1,300	8,400	4,700	0	1,700	2,700	14,300	77,700	793,100
Government	16,700	1,800	300	900	4,600	2,500	1,900	1,800	2,700	6,400	39,600	404,800
Change from previous month												
Civilian Labor Force*	-1,600	-1,100	0	-200	-900	-600	100	-200	-100	-1,000	-5,600	-42,500
Employed	-800	-1,100	0	-100	-700	-300	200	-100	0	-800	-3,800	-23,600
Unemployed	-700	0	0	0	-300	-200	0	-100	-100	-300	-1,800	-18,900
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.5%	0.0%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.9%	-2.2%	-0.6%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.6%
Total, all industries**	500	-800	0	100	-100	-100	200	100	200	-100	0	3,300
Construction & Mining	0	0	0	0	-100	0	0	0	0	-100	-300	-2,600
Manufacturing	-200	-100	0	0	-200	0	0	0	0	-300	-900	-6,100
Transportation & Public Util.	-100	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	100	300	3,400
Wholesale Trade	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-100	-1,800
Retail Trade	0	-400	0	0	0	-100	0	0	-100	-100	-700	-4,700
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-200	-1,000
Services	400	-400	0	0	-100	-300	0	0	100	-100	-400	-7,700
Government	500	100	100	100	200	400	200	200	200	300	2,300	23,800
Change from year ago												
Civilian Labor Force*	6,500	700	100	600	1,900	800	200	1,000	500	400	15,600	87,400
Employed	5,300	600	100	500	1,300	700	200	600	300	500	12,500	71,200
Unemployed	1,100	100	0	100	600	100	0	300	200	300	3,100	16,200
Unemployment rate(%)	0.7%	0.4%	-0.8%	1.1%	1.1%	0.2%	0.1%	1.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%
Total, all industries**	3,500	300	0	100	400	300	100	200	-200	1,900	6,600	1,100
Construction & Mining	700	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	600	1,500	-1,400
Manufacturing	400	0	0	100	0	-100	0	-100	0	-300	-100	-27,100
Transportation & Public Util.	200	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	200	600	1,800
Wholesale Trade	700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	800	-2,000
Retail Trade	-100	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	-100	200	300	1,500
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-500	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-400	3,300
Services	1,800	100	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	900	3,100	16,400
Government	300	0	0	0	200	100	100	100	-100	0	800	8,500
* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2000												

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI
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